

# A TO Z INDIA

**English & Tamil Monthly Magazine**  
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**World Nature Conservation Day**  
**28th July (Friday) in India**  
**Nature Conservation to Save Human Life**



**Indian Culture ● Indian Art ● Indian Lifestyle ● Indian Religion**



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A watercolor illustration of an elephant standing in a landscape. On its back is a large, colorful canopy with shades of pink, orange, and yellow. Three people are riding on the elephant: a man in a yellow shirt and a hat on the left, a woman in a pink sari in the middle, and a man in a blue shirt on the right. The elephant is decorated with a red and yellow cloth. The background shows a green landscape with a red car visible on the left.

# **A T O Z I N D I A**

**ENGLISH & TAMIL  
MONTHLY MAGAZINE**





04

#### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK: KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS - REMEMBERING THE HEROIC SAGA

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**FROM THE EDITOR**  
A TO Z INDIA magazine covers the Indian through his art, culture, lifestyle, religion, etc. This magazine gives an insight into the life of Indians from an angle uncovered by others. Turn to find out what it is about and to immerse yourself into an entirely different culture.

**Publication Team:**  
**EDITOR:** Indira Sriuatsa  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:** Dwarak, Sriuatsa  
**EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS:** Santha, Bhavani, Srinivasan  
**REPORTING:** Raghavan  
**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Adithyan  
**GRAPHICS ENGINEER:** Chandra

**Editorial Office:**  
E002, Premier Grihalakshmi Apartments, Elango Nagar South, Virugambakkam, Chennai - 600092, Tamil Nadu, India.

**Communication Details:**  
**MOBILE:** +91-7550160116  
**e.mail id:** editor.indira@gmail.com

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# KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS 2023: 26TH JULY 2023 WEDNESDAY



## **From the Editor's Desk: Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrated every 26 July in India**


Kargil Diwas is celebrated on the 26th of July to rekindle the pride and valor of the soldiers who were part of Operation Vijay. The day is significant in history as it marks the victory of Indian soldiers in capturing the mountain heights that were occupied by the Pakistani army on 26th July 1999. It was known as the Kargil War. This armed conflict lasted for nearly 60 days at Kargil in Ladakh. The country lost more than 500 soldiers in this war. Every year, this day is a chance to pay tribute to the Indian soldiers who were martyred in the war initiated by Pakistan. In Kargil War, the Indian Army successfully evicted Pakistani intruders who captured Tiger Hill and the other posts on the Indian side of the LOC (line of control) illegally. The Government of India responded with Operation Vijay. It was a mobilization of 200,000 Indian troops. The war came to an end officially on July 26, 1999, with the eviction of Pakistan Army Troops from their occupied positions. The day has been marked as Kargil Vijay Diwas in Indian History. This day holds great significance in the history of India. It is an opportunity for all citizens to salute and remember the bravery, courage, and unwavering dedication of the Indian armed forces.





Puthuppally, Kottayam, Kerala:

## Vennimala Temple

 Indira Sriivatsa

Vennimala Sree Rama Lakshamana Perumal Temple is one of the oldest Rama Temples in South India. Vennimala Sree Rama-Lakshmana temple, situated in the 4th ward of Puthupally, is 2 km south to Vellore in Kottayam district. Devotees can reach here through K.K.Road from Kottayam via Manarkad and turn right at the 8th mile. A board of Vennimala Temple shows the way. The place is about 15 km from Kottayam.



It is believed that Lord Rama and Lakshmana during their period of exile visited this hillside. At that time numerous sages meditated in the caves of Vennimala. Upon the request of the sages, Lakshmana killed many demons who were a threat and nuisance to the sages. Thus the place came to be called 'Vijayadri' in Sanskrit. The name means 'hill of victory' as Lakshmana won the battle with demons. Vijayadri in Malayalam became Vennimala. Cheraman Perumal Bhaskara Revivarma, the King of Kerala built the temple. The legend goes that Cheraman Perumal constructed this temple as per the direction of Kapila Maharshi. The place-name was Iraivipuram originally. The king who reached this place by canal route as per astronomical directions was shown the idol in this hill by a hunter named Iravi. Cheraman Perumal was attracted by the beauty of this place and stayed here and built a palace. He earmarked the hill as a sacred and protected place.





World Nature Conservation Day – July 28, 2023:

## Nature Conservation Necessary to Save Human Life



By Lalit Garg

Writer, Journalist, Columnist

E-253, Saraswati Kunj Apartment

25 IP Extensions, Patparganj, Delhi-92

email: lalitgarg11@gmail.com

Phone: 22727486, 9811051133





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**Phone:** 22727486, 9811051133



World Nature Conservation Day is observed every year on 28 July. The danger hovering over nature and environment currently can be understood from the extinction of many species of animals, various natural sources and vegetation. Today, the cause of worry is not the world war, or the human rights crises or any political turmoil plaguing the world, or even the defence matter of any country. The only matter of deep concern is the heat that is taking a terrible and gruesome shape. World over the water sources are shrinking, still vicious efforts to destroy the earth and nature are being pushed towards destruction. Increasing population, increasing pollution, menacing threats to the environment, ozone shields being pierced by the polluted gases, excessive exploitation of nature and environment – all these factors are posing potential threats to the earth and the earthlings. Thus, the aim of World Nature Conservation Day is to realize all of these potential threats.

Every year, the temperature of the earth is becoming higher and higher. The population figure is multiplying fast round the globe, whereas the forest and agricultural lands are shrinking to the minimum. The availability of everything is becoming scarce, this includes the shortage of oxygen. At the same time, our opportunistic outlook of technological development and lifestyle are further adding to an already serious threat to the environment and nature. For the first time in history, severe heat, heat-waves and an imbalance of temperature on both ends of the earth (Antarctic and Arctic) in Europe is not a common phenomenon. All this is happening due to imbalance in the earth's temperature and climate change, whose scope has now become global. Even if one may dismiss this disastrous situation as a temporary phenomenon, the ground reality is that the large-scale melting of glaciers and the heat wave in Europe are the gloomy indicators of a much bigger global threat, which cannot be ignored. The world will have to wake up from the drowsiness of so-called development. Due to global warming, the glaciers of the Himalayas, known as the 'Third Pole', are melting 10 times faster. According to researchers at the United Kingdom's Leeds University, today the rate of melting of snow from the Himalayas is 10 times more on average than at the time of 'Little Ice Age'-- the period of Little Ice Age between 16th to 19th Century. During this time, the large mountain glacier had further expanded. Scientists say, Himalayan glaciers are melting faster than the other glaciers in the world. As per an estimate of experts, the Earth's gravitational power will shift, when Antarctica's glacier will melt off completely. Due to this, huge upheaval will be witnessed the world over-- all the continents will be partially covered under the huge flood water, causing large-scale harms to the biodiversity. Thousands of species living on the earth will also go extinct; thereby, a disastrous and dreadful situation will emerge on the earth. Along with this, millions of people will have to migrate from one place to another-- around the world. The economy and habitable space will be completely destroyed, leading the human species almost to the Stone Age. The melting of glaciers will also affect the rotation speed of the earth. This will increase the length of Earth's day a little more, 69 percent of the potable water is stored inside the glaciers. But with the melting of glaciers, this source of pure water will be completely wasted through mixing in oceans' salt water.



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Though for quite some time, a lot of discussions in the world have been raging about the destruction of the environment and nature pollution. Politicians, scientists, religious leaders and social workers are also worried about the toxic effects on the atmosphere of the earth and nature due to the destructive activities. Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has also been creating awareness on world forums by warning about the dangers being posed to the environment. Since nature fulfills every need of man, it is the responsibility of every person to do his bit to protect nature.

Nature is made of these three elements-- water, forest and land. If these elements are not there, then nature is incomplete without these three elements. Most of the prosperous countries in the world are considered to be the ones where these three elements are in abundance. The matter is not limited to the availability of these basic elements or resources. In this era of modernization, when these resources are being exploited indiscriminately, then these elements are also in danger of becoming extinct. The hill town of Shimla has faced acute water shortage in the past, like many cities being troubled by the water shortage. In India, we hear about the scarcity of drinking water in some or the other city every day. Somewhere, there is shortage of water and somewhere there is flood. These days, our nation faces flood situations and heavy destruction everywhere, including the national capital New Delhi.

World Nature Conservation Day raises awareness that a healthy environment is the foundation of a stable and healthy human society. The purpose of celebrating World Nature Conservation Day is to conserve those animals and trees that are on verge of extinction from the Earth's natural environment. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every person to preserve Nature. There is a need to work towards a sustainable world to ensure the health of the generations to come, as well as the present. It is a matter of great concern that man himself is harming the health of the earth. How strange it is that a man is the only creature who has lost himself after having everything. You tell me where is that man who used to prevent trees from being cut even after getting himself cut off? He did not allow anyone to grab even a piece of grazing land; for whom even a drop of water was as precious as life. The sights of the cows being slaughtered in slaughterhouses used to make him restless. He was the one who did not take care of the dwarf selfishness of making his settlements by driving away the wild animals and birds. Now, the same man is not able to protect nature properly for his selfishness and convenience; and because of that natural calamities are wreaking havoc again and again. It is strange to talk about floods in the desert, but these days we are seeing the dire situation of flood in many cities of Rajasthan. When man is unable to protect nature, then nature is also showing its anger in the form of many natural calamities. Undoubtedly, conservation of nature and natural resources is our main priority today. One of the main goals of World Nature Conservation Day is to save endangered species of plants and animals from going extinct. Emphasis is also laid on the conservation of various elements of nature, including soil, water, air, energy sources, and plant and animal life.



World Nature Conservation Day - July 28, 2023:

## Nature Conservation Necessary to Save Human Life

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The purpose of the event is to acknowledge the importance of a healthy, functional environment in maintaining a strong, prosperous human society. The purpose of celebrating it is to introspect as a species how humans are exploiting nature, and to take steps to conserve it. Due to the excessive exploitation of natural resources, man is facing the wrath of global warming, various deadly diseases, natural calamities, increased temperature, flood etc.





A Renowned Artist - PadmShri Krishn Kanhai:

## The Man with the Midas Touch

 Dr. Gopal Chaturvedi

**By Dr. Gopal Chaturvedi**

Writer is Mathura - Vrindavan, UP Based Senior Journalist

Shri Krishn Sardam Colony

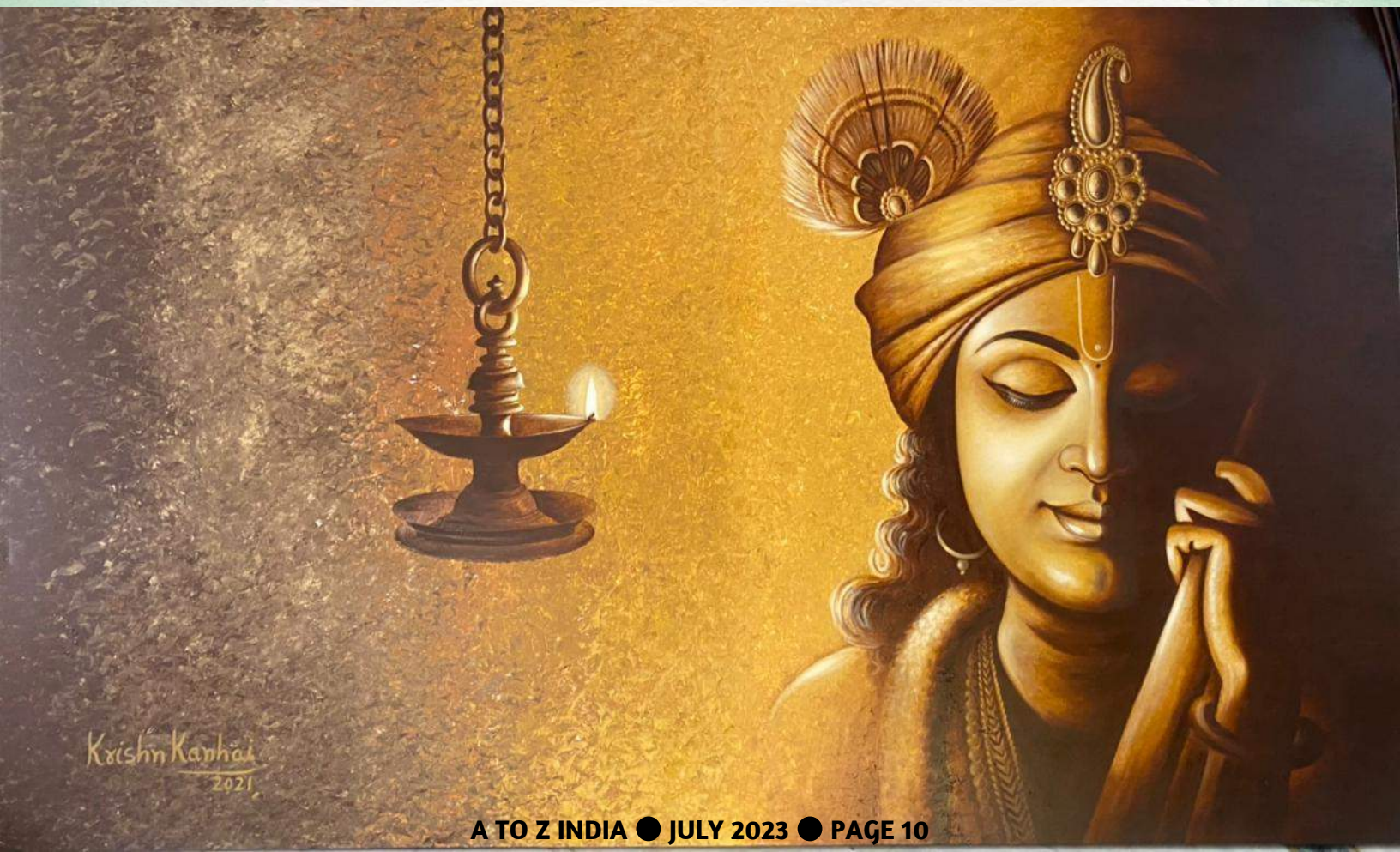
HR -1, 006 (GROUND FLOOR), Gate - 2, Chatikara Road, Vrindavan

- 281121, Distt. - Mathura (U.P.)

**email:** radhakant281121@gmail.com, **Phone:** 9412178154

The Man with the Midas Touch Padmshri awardee painter Krishn Kanhai got his latest art work unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The life-size potrait of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel impressed PM Modi so much that he suggested that there should be a special place for the painting. "When PM Modi saw the painting, he said that he wanted it to be kept at the Statue of Unity (at Kewadia, Gujarat). This is the biggest compliment that I could get. Lakhs of people visit the Statue of Unity, it will be a big thing for me," Kanhai says. The painting has Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the background and PM Modi in the foreground. "When the lockdown was announced in March 2020, I thought of making a painting of PM Modi as he is one of the most popular leaders of the world. First, I thought I would make PM's painting with Mahatma Gandhi, then I decided that I should go ahead with Sardar Patel," Kanhai says, explaining how he decided to pick Modi and Patel as the subject of his painting.

Always Prepared to draw things that take his fancy, Krishn Kanhai is one of the most enigmatic and internationally recognized artists of contemporary India. Best described as an artist with the Midas touch, Mr Krishn Kanhai, has earned multiple accolades throughout his artistic Career, including India's Fourth-Highest civilian honour Padma Shri in 2004. Born in 1961 in Uttar Pradesh's Vrindavan, Mr Krishn Kanhai's Journey began at very young age of 15 year.



Krishn Kanhai  
2021



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“To be true, it all began after seeing my father (Kanhai Chitrakar). And as a son of a renowned artist, my friends at the school used to push me to draw something on the blackboard,” Says Mr Kanhai. Notably, Krishn Kanhai’s Father Padma Shri Kanhai Chitrakar was also an acclaimed artist and a painter who pioneered an art form known as Kanhai gold Painting. Kanhai gold Paintings are somewhat like the well-loved Tanjore Paintings, but the Kanhai’s are proportionate, unlike the Tanjores, which feature short, stout figures. In addition, the Kanhai Paintings use only 24-carat Pure gold, which is applied more liberally than the fine-touch gold typically, used in other Indian paintings.

“So initially just with chalk, I Used to draw peacocks, flowers, and sometimes Radha-Krishan on the blackboard. At the age of 15 after completing My High School Education, I completely focused on the painting”, said Mr Kanhai. Pertinent to mention. Mr Kanhai, throughout his artistic career spanning over four decades, has painted thousands of portraits on the now perishing theme of Radha-Krishna and their tales. Mr Kanhai Has, however, not confined himself to the traditional style, but, has also introduced certain significant techniques of his own that make the canvas aesthetically appealing and spiritually rich. Most aptly, Mr Kanhai can be called a fusion artist for making beautiful use of enchanting Radha-Krishna postures and turning them into contemporary modern art that is eye-catching and unforgettable even after a single gaze. So following the footsteps of his father and mentor Kanhai Chitrakar, Young Kanhai was encouraged to carve out his own niche in the artistic world, which he did earlier than expected. His son Mr Arjun Kanhai has received his BFA degree from University of Southampton, UK and is also an expert in traditional and portrait Painting.

It is seldom, that a father and a son have been honoured with a National award like Padma Shri. The Kanhai Family and the Bachchan Family are the only two families in India where both father and son have won the Padma Shri. “What I learned from my father at the age of 15 gave me recognition after 25 year of struggle into the painting world”, underlines the dexterous artist. Mr Kanhai’s first magical work with his rapier-like fingers was a portrait of Swami Haridas, which he sold for Rs 4 in 1975. “This Rs 4 was my first earning through a painting and it gave me a sense of satisfaction that my Paintings are being liked by the people”, the humble Painter remarked. After this Mr Kanhai Completely joined his father to learn the art of Painting and later presented art that was embellished with aesthetic appeal, spiritual richness, and exemplary beauty. Narrating three-decades-old experience, Mr Kanhai said when he was 27-year-old, he decided to create his own art form, It is after this realization, Mr Kanhai Started working on folk themes to revive the Brij and Yamuna Bank Culture into his artwork and gradually came to evolve a style of his own, which bore his personal stamp. It did not take much time for him to get known, as the precursor of the Yamuna Ghat Painting School. Since then Kanhai’s painting have received great acclaim due to their improved artistic composition, use of oil Paints and embossing material, realistic style of large Canvases, excellent gem-setting work, and an opulent 24-carat gold foiling. Yes he often use pure gold and precious gems as raw materials for his paintings.



## The Man with the Midas Touch



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“Painting using pure gold was done a long time ago, but this form of art had become extinct in North India in recent times. Thinking of creative ways to make a painting more beautiful, I revived this form of paintings”, said Kanhai. It is often said that stand before Kanhai’s portrait of Krishna and, very often, you lose the sense of time as you keep on gazing at the Lord of Vrindavan, which seems to cast a spell over the onlooker.

He brought a new dimension to the art arena by creating paintings that recited visually mesmerising stories. Groomed under the expert guidance of his father and Guru, Kanhai Chitrakar, he earned international recognition and the epithet of the artist with the Midas touch. But it is not just the Radha-Krishna paintings or the Portraits that depicted folk culture for what Mr Kanhai is known. He kept experimenting with his artistic work. Mr Kanhai is also known to the political elite of the world, with several Presidents and Prime Ministers among his clients whose portraits were done by him. The list includes names like former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee and former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani, former US President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary Clinton, former US President Barack Obama and his family, besides eminent industrialists like Aditya Birla and his wife Rajshree Birla, and veteran Bollywood actor-turned-Politician Hema Malini.


In 2016, on a special request from the Uttar Pradesh Government, Mr Kanhai Painted a life size Portrait of 22 Chief Ministers of UP – past and present along with 19 past and present Speakers of the UP Assembly, besides two life-size portrait of Mahatma Gandhi. “I feel that I am fortunate to be the only artist whose 40 portraits are on the walls of Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha”, Mr Kanhai said. The paintings of the Father-son duo are so highly acclaimed in the art circles of India, that in 2004, two research scholars Sangeeta Gupta of Bhimrao Ambedkar University Agra and Mohammed Wasim of Jiwaji Rao University, Gwalior –were awarded a Doctorate degree over their academic work based on Krishn Kanhai and his father Kanhai Chitrakar, respectively. To be exact, the versatile artist has so far painted more than 300 portraits, 700 Contemporary ones, 300 Fusions and 3000 Gold paintings on the theme of Lord Radha-Krishna. Apart from this, he has also trained more than 200 students. Mr Kanhai has numerous received awards and honours to which the humble artist says, “It is not me who is making these paintings, it is God, I’m just a medium.” But nothing down some of his achievements, Mr Kanhai was internationally acclaimed by Mr A.H.Nelly President of International Publishers for Gold Paintings of Krishna Chitrakar on 30th Jan, 1992. He was also honoured with the ‘Achiever of the millennium’ award in 1999. Mr Kanhai has also been included in World Book of Records, London for his contributions.

The then Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Raman Singh, awarded “Raja Chakradhar Samman” to him in September 2009. In the same year, he was conferred ‘Rashtriya Kalidas Samman’ by the Madhya Pradesh Government. Later in 2015, the Uttar Pradesh Government honoured Mr Kanhai with the Yash Bharti Samman.



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With surfeit recognition globally, we asked Mr Kanhai of his success mantra to which he averred that there is no shortcut to success.'


"Sheer hard work is the only key to success. You Have to give everything to achieve something in your life", says Mr Kanhai. In a message to young artist and painters, he tells them not to remain in a hurry to achieve success. "This artwork required decades to gain finesse in your work", In the future, the veteran artist plans to open a "Kanhai Art Academy" in Vrindavan – the land of Radha and share his four decades of skills with the young generation. In the coming years, the name Krishn Kanhai, will be remembered as the who was profoundly influential in changing the idiom of Indian Art!





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A poem around the monsoons:

Poem - And one day, when it rained

 [Ayan](#)

By Ayan Adak

e-mail: [ayan1adak1@gmail.com](mailto:ayan1adak1@gmail.com)



...and one day when,  
We'd given up to the dust and heat,  
Clouds in blue from nowhere came,  
Reminding us that nothing had changed,  
That life was still the beautiful same

And one day when,  
Our memory blooms from yesterday,  
Had dried away in dying pain,  
The first rains gave a greener hope,  
That the withering were not all in vain

And one day when,  
We woke anew to the showers fresh,  
We saw the seasons left behind,  
And yet a promise in the rains  
Of the many more to seek and find

And one day when,  
We thought no more to return in time  
A cloudy day thawed all our pain,  
For us to cry, and yet to smile  
One day, when it rained again...





# HAPPY PADMINI EKADASHI VRAT 29TH JULY 2023

Padmini Ekadashi falls during leaped month. Leaped month is also known as Adhika Masa, Malmas and Puroshhottam Masa. Ekadashi which falls during Shukla Paksha of Adhika Masam is known as Padmini Ekadashi. Hence no Lunar month is fixed to observe Padmini Ekadashi fasting and it is decided based on leaped month. This Ekadashi is also known as Adhika Masa Ekadashi.





**Incredible India:  
Images of  
India  
through  
Paintwork**





**Incredible India:  
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 **Chandra**







## ANDAL JAYANTI 2023

Friday, July 21st, 2023

Andal Jayanti, is the celebration of Bhudevi's birthday and is dedicated to Andal or Bhudevi (Godadevi), who is believed to be an incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi. This day is also known as Aadi Pooram. Aadi Pooram is celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervor during the Tamil month of 'Aadi'.





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**Ph: 044 26244992.**





Alwarkurichi, Thirunelveli:

## Vanniyappar Temple



Vanniyappar Temple is dedicated to Hindu God Shiva located in Alwarkurichi Village in Thirunelveli District of Tamilnadu. This temple is nearly 1000 years old. The environment of the temple is too peaceful and pleasant for Siddhas and to those performing meditation.

Vanniyappar Temple is dedicated to Hindu God Shiva located in Alwarkurichi Village in Thirunelveli District of Tamilnadu. This temple is nearly 1000 years old. The environment of the temple is too peaceful and pleasant for Siddhas and to those performing meditation. The Temple was believed to be built by Pandya King Maravarman Sundarapandyan at the banks of Rama Nadhi. This temple was the third largest after Papanasam (Thirunelveli) and Tenkasi Kasi Vishwanathar temple and spread out in nearly one acre. Presiding Deity is called as Vanniyappar (Agneeswarar) and Mother is called as Sivakama Sundari. Theertham is Agni Theertham and Sthala Vriksham is Vanni Tree.

### Legends:

#### Agni Theertham

During Dwapara Yuga, Saptharishis were performing a Yajna to control Agni from destroying people. Agni, the fire God, destroyed that yagna. Due to this, they cursed him to lose his power. In order to escape from the sin, he disguised as a fish hid himself inside the tank opposite to this temple. As all other fish were staying away from him (in the form of fish), the sin could easily identify him, and he lost his power. Later, as per the advice from Sudama Maharishi, he made Shiva Linga and installed in this shrine to ultimately get rid of his sins.

#### Rama Nadhi

Agni named the river Rama Nadhi as he helped to prove the chastity of Mother Sita.





## Vanniyappar Temple



### History:

Agni Theertham is the original place where Agneeswara (Vanniyappar) had existed. Later, the idol was moved to current place amidst Vanni gorve by Sri Vijayendra Bhupathy Mudaliar and built a temple around it. Hence, he is placed amidst Vanni Grove. He came to be called as Vanneeswara.

### The Temple:

The ancient temple of Agneeswarar is located at the outskirts of Alwarkurichi village. The structure is very old and needs immediate attention. The east facing temple towers as well as the ceiling of many parts of the temple are in dilapidated state. The sanctum sanctorum has a big sized Shiva Linga named as Agneeswara. The shrine is facing the east direction. In the Maha Mandapa, there is a Nandi idol facing the main shrine. There is a small Ganesha idol at the entrance of the Ardha Mandapa.

Theertham is Agni Theertham and Sthala Vriksham is Vanni Tree. During the Later Pandyas Period, they moved the original Agneeswara to the East of the temple as Easanya Lingam, and placed a larger Shivalingam in the Sanctum. However, they never replaced the Nandi.

The Goddess Sivakami is found in a separate shrine facing the south direction. Both the main shrines are located on a raised platform as per the “maada kovil” architecture style. The area between the tower and the main temple is huge with so many pillars and some of the pillars have statues such as the mythological animal, Yazhi. The Bali peetha, Nandi and the wooden flag staff are all located in this area. There is a big shrine dedicated to Lord Nataraja in this area.

The temple has two prakaras. The outer prakara is not accessible today due to poor maintenance; it appears like a forest and full of structural debris. The first prakara has the idols of Sapta Matas, Surya, Chandra, Bhairava, few Shiva Lingas, Ishana Linga, few Nagas and 63 Nayanmars. The sub-shrines of Kanni Vinayaka, Subramanya-Valli-Devasena and Dhakshinamoorthi are also located in the inner prakara. Small bas-relief images of Yoga Narasimha and Brahma, which are obviously later additions, are found on either side of Dhakshinamoorthi. This temple is a parihara sthalam for marriage and childbirth. The mandapa opposite the main shrine has so many pillars. In one of the pillars, two carvings are worshiped as Goddesses. One of the female images is worshiped as Kalyanambal. The local people believe that she gives boon of marriage for unmarried people. The other female image is a typical pregnant woman image which is found in many temples in South Tamilnadu. In this temple, people call it as ‘Garbha Rakshambikai’.

It is believed that she gives boon of child for childless couple. More than the main deity, these two carvings pull the crowd to this temple. There are Idols of women helping another woman to deliver; various yoga postures for pregnant women on the main gopuram. Each pillars of this Temple has sculptures depicting childbirth. Few of the pillars has erotic sculptures.



## Vanniyappar Temple



The Navagrahas In the temple are in a rare different set up. Instead being installed in a separate shrine, they are in Yantra form sculpted in the roof of the Artha mandapam before Lord's shrine. Such a Navagraha set up is in the Thanumalayan temple before the Neelakanda Vinayaka mandapam in Suseendram in Kanyakumari district. But this is the only temple Navagraha Yantras are before Lord Shiva shrine. This temple is also a place of worship for Kalasarpa Dosham.

It is also believed that if the water in the Agni Theertha completely covers the Shivalinga in – drowned – there will be heavy rain. Dharma Sastha is in the form of a peeta with Poorna and Pushkala nearby. Karuvur Siddhar appears with a dog in a pillar. There is large Nataraja made of a single stone, belonged to this temple, but has now been moved to another temple nearby for safe-keeping.

63 Nayanmars are depicted with similar faces and in standing posture. All of the them were depicted with folded hands. Stories related to each Nayanmar were written on the wall behind them. Grouping of the Nayanmars are not done as per tradition but done based on relationship.

In most of the places, there is a beautiful carving of Hanuman or His face carved and sculpted. Inside the hall, shrines for Saptha Kannikas, Vigneshwar, Dhakshinamoorthy, Nagar, Pooranai, Pushakalai samedha Azhakiya Nambi Sastha, Valli – Deivanai samedha Subramanya, Chandikeswarar, Saneeshwara Bhagwan, Sankaranarayana, Isanya Lingam, Kala Bhairavar, and small Nandi in front of Goddess sanctum adorns the premises. Sivakami Ambal blesses her devotees with her utmost benign posture. It is said that those residing in the Panchakrosha Sthalas around Kasi – Varanasi, never think of sins by word or deed. Likewise there are such five holy places around including this temple – Pappankulam Rameswarar, Papanasam Papanasa Nathar, Thiruvaleeswararm Tiruvaleeswara Nathar and Shiva Shailam Shivashailappar. All the temples are within a radius of 25 km with convenient bus facility from Alwarkurichi.

### Temple Opening Time:

The temple is open from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. and from 5.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

### Festivals:

Maha Shivaratri in February-March; Margazhi Thiruvadirai in December-January; Panguni Uthiram in March-April and Tirukarthikai in November-December are the festivals celebrated in the temple.

### Prayers:

Devotees worship Goddess Kalyanambal to get rid of marriage obstacles. Devotees worship Garbarakshambigai for Child boon. Devotees suffer from Rahu Dosham, Kethu Dosham and Kalasarpa Dosham will worship respective gods in this Temple. An Ambica, in a pregnant posture appears in a pillar in the mandapam opposite the Lord's shrine.





## Kodachadri peaks in the Western Ghats: Saruagna Peeta Shankaracharya Temple



Kodachadri is situated 1343 meters above sea level and around 30 Kms away from the temple town Kollur. Surrounded by lush green hills, it is home to a wide variety of wildlife and tropical vegetation. The valley has been declared as a natural heritage site by the state government .

A place in the clouds where the legend of tranquil places, Shankaracharya stayed...

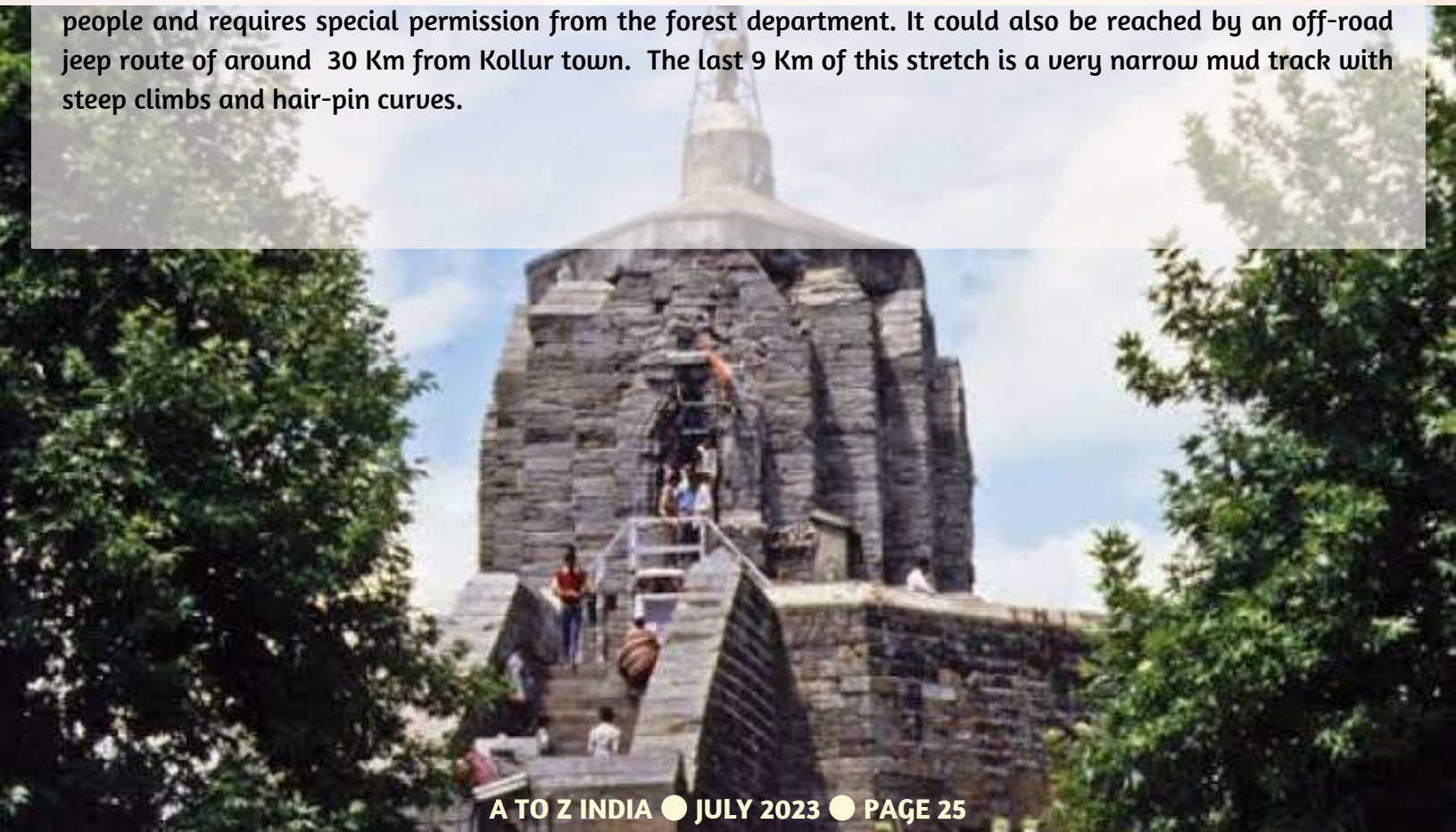
Saruagna Peeta Shankaracharya Temple:

Kodachadri peaks in the Western Ghats, located in the Shimoga district of Karnataka is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful tourist destinations in India. A trip to Kodachadri could be an unforgettable experience for nature-enthusiasts, trekkers, photographers and adventurous drivers. Kodachadri is situated 1343 meters above sea level and around 30 Kms away from the temple town Kollur. Surrounded by lush green hills, it is home to a wide variety of wildlife and tropical vegetation. The valley has been declared as a natural heritage site by the state government.

Through the Kodachadri Mountain Ranges:

The name Kodachadri (Kodachadri in Kannada, Kutajadri in Sanskrit and Malayalam കുടജാദ്രി) is derived from Sanskrit words 'Kutaja' and 'Adri' . Kutaja is a kind of Mountain Jasmine flower (കൂടകപ്പാല, Kutakappaala or Ġiri-Mallika) and Adri means hill. Kutaja plant has Ayurvedic medicinal properties too.

The panoramic view from the top of Kodachadri peak is mesmerizing . The mountain top is accessible by an adventurous trekking trail of around 9 to 12 km through dense forest. This trek is meant for physically fit people and requires special permission from the forest department. It could also be reached by an off-road jeep route of around 30 Km from Kollur town. The last 9 Km of this stretch is a very narrow mud track with steep climbs and hair-pin curves.





Kodachadri peaks in the Western Ghats:

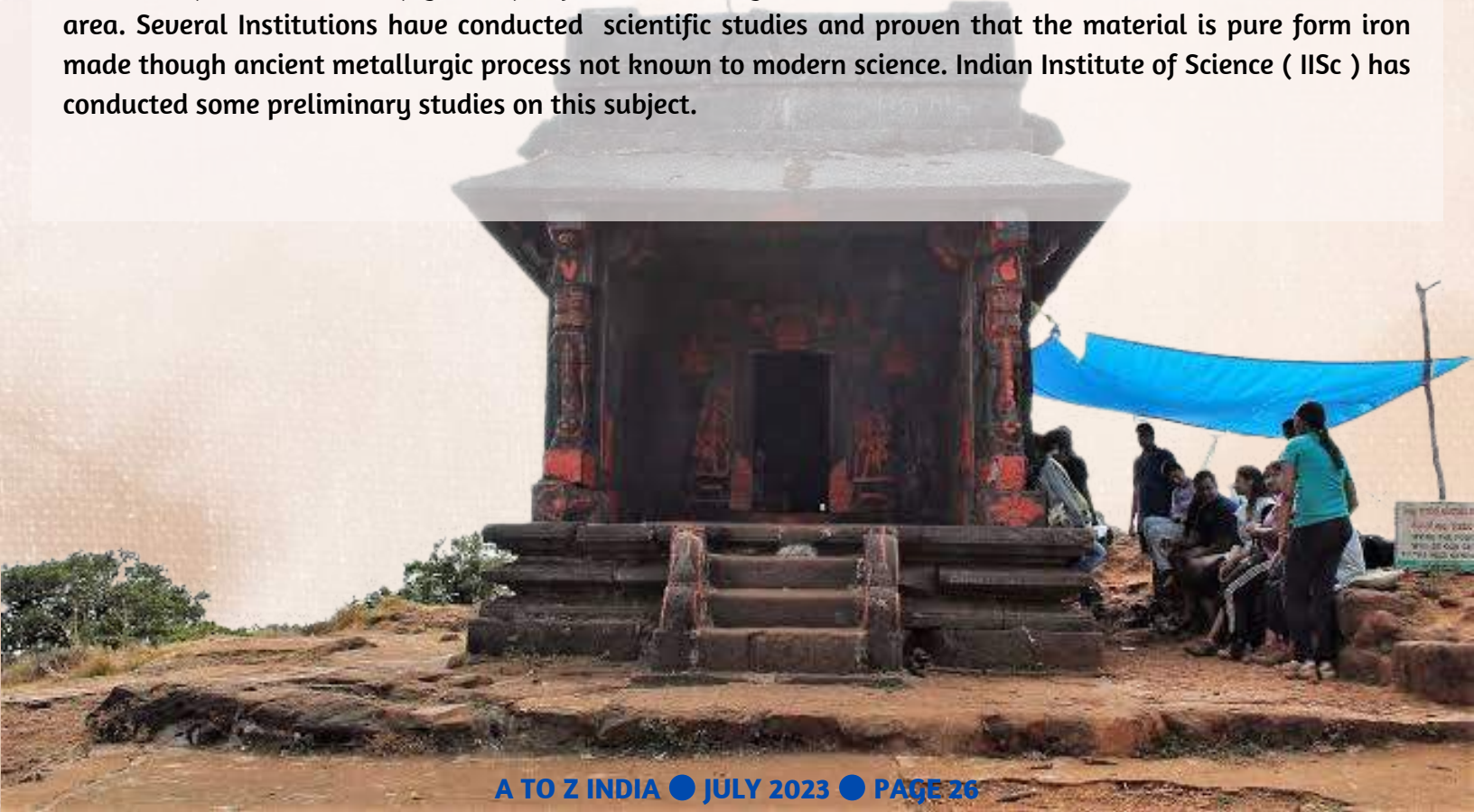
## Sarvagna Peeta Shankaracharya Temple



Sarvajna Peetha mentioned in history:

As per Puranas, famous Hindu Saint and philosopher Adi Sankaracharya meditated here to get the blessing of Goddess Parvati, and the goddess promised to follow him to Kerala with a condition that he would not look back at any cost. When they reached Kollur, suddenly he was unable to hear the sound of Devi's anklets. Sankaracharya got suspicious and turned back to see whether Devi was behind him. The Goddess was following him as promised, but since the condition was broken she decided to stay at Kollur. A visit to the Mookambika Devi Temple is incomplete without having a glimpse of Sarvajna Peetha at Kudajadri. It is a small temple like structure made at the spot where Sri Adi Shankaracharya believed to have meditated. Adi Shankara attained the Sarvajna Peetha or Throne of Wisdom by defeating religious philosophers from around the world during his spiritual journey and ascended to heaven afterwards. Similar structure could be found at Sharada Peeth or Sarvajna Peetha in Jammu and Kashmir as well. I have read controversial statements about the period Adi Sankara lived. It is claimed that he lived during 5th century BC but historians also believe that he lived during 8th century AD. Either way, the temples and structures here are more than 1200 years old.

Another miraculous finding is an ancient 7 meter tall iron pillar in front of the base temple (moola sthana). Legend has it that the Goddess Parvati fought with an asura (demon) named Kaumasura (also known as Mookasura) at this location. Devotees believe that it is the spear (trishula) she used to kill the asura and driven it into the earth afterwards. The Goddess was known as Mookambika later. I was told that the trident head of the spear is still underneath the soil. Whether the story is true or not, this iron pillar has not corroded after thousands of years of exposure to heavy rains and other extreme weather conditions in the area. Several Institutions have conducted scientific studies and proven that the material is pure form iron made though ancient metallurgic process not known to modern science. Indian Institute of Science ( IISc ) has conducted some preliminary studies on this subject.







## Thirukundalur, Kumbakonam: Kundalur Murugan Temple



Thirukundalur is a legendary red spot dating back to 1600 years. Thirukunthalur is one of the places where Thirunavukkara and Thirugnanasambandar, also known as Apparadikal, worshiped Kayilayanathan.

Thirukundalur is a legendary red spot dating back to 1600 years. Thirukunthalur is one of the places where Thirunavukkara and Thirugnanasambandar, also known as Apparadikal, worshiped Kayilayanathan. History has it that in ancient times, the temple was called Arulmigu Jambukaraneswarar, the lord of the temple, as the novel was set in the middle of the forest.

According to the Thala Purana, the small shrine where Sita Pratiyar bathed in the theertham in the north-eastern corner of the temple was called Chintur Kundalur.

Kundalur is an ancient red spot located at a distance of 10 km from Nakhchivan on the road from Kumbakonam to the garden.

The Sita Theertham is located on the north east side of the temple and the Kumara Theertham is located on the south east side.







Thirukundalur, Kumbakonam:  
**Kundalur Murugan Temple**



Thirukundalur is a legendary red spot dating back to 1600 years. Thirukunthalur is one of the places where Thirunavukkara and Thirugnanasambandar, also known as Apparadikal, worshiped Kayilayanathan.

This is a Shiva temple where Murti, Talam and Theertham are combined.

On the left side of the entrance to the temple, Ganesha gives blessings with a separate shrine. This temple is popularly known as the Kundalur Murugan Temple by the local devotees. Ananda Murugan, who is blessed by the Tamil God, stands in the northeast corner of the entrance, standing with the Goddess with the Goddess, and looking towards Saneeswara with a northeast view. I am, Lord Saturn is like destroying the danger to the devotees as I endure the danger of suffering, Lord Murugan's twist! The temples of Tetsinamoorthy, Linkodpavar, Balasubramaniyar, Mahalakshmi, Durga Amman and Chandikeswarar are located in the Prakaram.

In the northeastern part, Lord Murugan looks at Saturn with a northeastern view. He wakes up in the hope that his grief will end soon and worships Murugan with good intentions. Also ,16 bar Tara Lingam of Pallava period 1500 years ago is dedicated near Balasubramaniyar Sanctuary. To worship Tara Linga, one can get 16 types of wealth and live a luxurious life.







Thirukundalur, Kumbakonam:  
**Kundalur Murugan Temple**



Thirukundalur is a legendary red spot dating back to 1600 years. Thirukunthalur is one of the places where Thirunavukkara and Thirugnanasambandar, also known as Apparadikal, worshiped Kayilayanathan.

Many types of trees are grown around the temple. There is also a Nandavanam in the temple area.

A spring hall has been constructed in beautiful construction in front of the temple. The lush green gardens around the temple, the grace of the Lord inside the temple, the spectacle of Mother Nature outside the temple, the temple is a wonderful place for all the devotees to visit the temple with the utmost contentment called Kundalur Murugan Temple.

The temple is open from 7 am to 8 pm and from 5 pm to 6 pm.







Thirukundalur, Kumbakonam:  
Kundalur Murugan Temple



Thirukundalur is a legendary red spot dating back to 1600 years. Thirukunthalur is one of the places where Thirunavukkara and Thirugnanasambandar, also known as Apparadikal, worshiped Kayilayanathan.







Thrissur, Kerala:  
**Vadakkunnathan Temple**



Vadakkunnathan Temple is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva at city of Thrissur, of Kerala state in India. This temple is a classical example of the architectural style of Kerala and has one monumental tower on each of the four sides in addition to a kuttambalam. Mural paintings depicting various scenes from the Mahabharata can be seen inside the temple.

Vadakkunnathan Temple, Thrissur, Kerala. This ancient temple was originally founded by Bhagwan Parshuram. The temple structure is believed to be existed during the time of Perumthachan, son of Vararuchi . Vadakkunnathan Temple is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva at city of Thrissur, of Kerala state in India. This temple is a classical example of the architectural style of Kerala and has one monumental tower on each of the four sides in addition to a kuttambalam. Mural paintings depicting various scenes from the Mahabharata can be seen inside the temple.

The temple is famous for the rarity of the temple murals, of which the Vasukishayana and Nrithanatha murals are of great importance and are worshipped daily. The temple also houses a museum of ancient wall paintings, wood carvings and art pieces of ancient times.

Om Namah Shivaya 🌸🙏🙏











**ஆழ்வார்குறிச்சி, திருநெல்வேலி மாவட்டம்:**  
அருள்மிகு வன்னியப்பர் திருக்கோயில்



காலை 7 மணி முதல் 10 மணி வரை, மாலை 5 மணி முதல் இரவு 7.30 மணி வரை திறந்திருக்கும்.

மூலவர் - வன்னியப்பர்  
அம்மன் - சிவகாமிசுந்தரி  
பழமை - 1000 வருடங்களுக்கு முன்  
ஊர் - ஆழ்வார்குறிச்சி  
மாவட்டம் - திருநெல்வேலி  
மாநிலம் - தமிழ்நாடு

இவ்வுலகத்தில் ஆக்கல், அழித்தல் ஆகிய இரு தொழில்களையும் அக்னியே செய்கிறது. யாகங்களிலும், நைவேத்தியம் தயாரிக்கவும், சமையலுக்கும் பயன்படும் அக்னி, மனிதன் இறந்து போனால் அவனது உடலை எரிக்கவும் பயன்படுகிறது. அவனது ஆத்மாவை இறைவனிடம் கொண்டு சேர்க்கிறது. ஒருமுறை சப்தரிஷிகள் யாகம் செய்தனர். அவர்களது யாக குண்டத்தில் எரிந்த நெருப்பு சரிவர எரியவில்லை. இதனால் அக்னி பகவானை ஒளியிழந்து போகுமாறு அந்த ரிஷிகள் சபித்தனர். தனது கடமையை சரிவரச் செய்யாமல், சாபத்திற்கு ஆளான அக்னி பகவான், மீண்டும் தனது பழைய நிலையை பெற சிவலிங்கம் நிறுவி வழிபட்டார். பூலோகத்தில், ஒரு நதியின் கரையில் அவர் இந்த பூஜையை செய்து வந்தார். சிவபெருமான் அவருக்கு காட்சியளித்து மீண்டும் ஒளி தந்தார்.

















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# ஏ டீ இஸ்ட் இந்தியா

-> உங்களுடைய  
படைப்புகளை  
அனுப்பவேண்டிய  
மின்னஞ்சல் முகவரி:  
[editor.indira@gmail.com](mailto:editor.indira@gmail.com)



ஆங்கிலம் மற்றும் தமிழ்  
மாத இதழ்



## HAPPY KOKILA VRAT 2023

**Kokila Vrat on Wednesday, July 13, 2022**

**Kokila Vrat Pradosh Puja Muhurat - 07:22 PM to 09:24 PM**

**Kokila Vrat is observed on Purnima during the lunar month of Ashadha. It is believed that Kokila Vrat should be observed in those years when there is an intercalary Ashadha month. In other words, Kokila Vrat should be observed only when Ashadha Masa is leaped.**

